

FIRES IN LONDON, 1843.

At a meeting of the directors of the principal insurance companies composing the committee of the London Fire Establishment, which was held at the chief station in Watling-street, Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent of the brigade force, made his annual report of the fires that have occurred in the metropolis and its suburbs during the past year. The report, which is extremely voluminous and interesting, commences by stating that the fires in 1843 as compared with the previous year have decreased by twenty; the average, however, for the last ten years shows an increase of 62. The number of fires and alarms which have happened from January 1 to December 31, 1843, at which the engines of the establishment have been called into operation, amounts to 901. It further mentions that the fires by which premises were totally destroyed numbers 29, buildings considerably damaged 231, ditto slightly 489, chimneys 83, and false alarms 79. Total 901. It also appears that large fires, proportionally, have not been so extensive and numerous as those that have occurred in previous years. Mr. Braidwood observes, that the following were attended with the most serious loss of property:—On the night of the 16th January, the two large floor-cloth manufactures of Messrs. J. Rolls and Gunstone, situated in the Old Kent-road, were totally consumed, together with two dwelling-houses. It will be recollected that some surprise was manifested at the great height which the fire attained, which he attributes to the factories being almost entirely composed of wood, and the great delay that arose in getting a supply of water after several of the engines had arrived. The next took place on the 10th of July at Mark's, the extensive marine-store dealers, in Leicester-place, Greenwich, and the great fire at Topping's Warehouse, on the morning of the 19th of the same month, which, it will be remembered, destroyed four warehouses, besides St. Olave's Church, and Watson's Telegraph. The extent of this conflagration he accounts for by the fire breaking out in an oil warehouse having no party-walls, and an inefficiency of water. It will be recollected, that the church was sacrificed in order to preserve property which otherwise would have been destroyed to the amount of 400,000*l*. The report thus details the facts that occurred:—“At the turpentine distillery, Rotherhithe, in January; at the Golden Lion, Beley-heath, in June; on the 16th of July, at Pinchin and Johnson's oil-works, St. Georges-in-the-East; at Newberry's the chymists, in Fetter-lane, where five fires were lost, on the 19th of August; the three that followed in rapid succession on the night of the 15th and morning of the 15th of September, at Limehouse, Wapping, and Westminster; the fatal fire in St. Martin's-court in October—three lives lost; and, lastly, those at the candle manufactory in Paradise-street Lambeth, and Bramah's engineering factory at Pinchard, during the last month.” Of the 29 large fires which are noticed at the commencement of the report, the number of buildings consumed thereby amounts to 40. Farther on it mentions the different trades at which fires have occurred and their causes. There are a great number of them, however, marked unknown, and it is too strongly believed that the principal part of them have been occasioned by incendiaries. 280 in private houses, chiefly caused by bed and window-curtains lighting through neglect of domestic, 39 lodging-houses, 30 licensed victuallers, 23 coffee-shops, 20 woolen and silk mercers, 23 sale shops, 20 cabinet-makers, 5 public buildings, 10 hakers, 7 lucifer manufactories, and three ships. A large number, however, are described to have originated in offices, sheds, &c. The chief causes are stated to be carelessness of servants, and defects in stoves and flues. The number of fires that have taken place since the formation of the establishment in 1832 up to the present time amounts to 6,523. The report then concludes by observing that the most valuable assistance has been, on all occasions, rendered by the police at the above conflagrations.

KAGOWA.—The spire of the beautiful church at this town having been recently repaired, the newly-gilded vase was placed upon its summit on Monday last. The height of the spire is thirty-three yards.—*Nottingham Journal*.

DR. SOUTHEY'S MONUMENT.

In consequence of a desire which has been generally expressed that a public testimony of respect to the late poet laureate should be placed in the church of Crosthwaite, near Keswick, in which parish he had spent the greater portion of his life, a meeting was held at Keswick, on the 31st of last October, when various resolutions, for the purpose of carrying the above purpose into effect, were unanimously agreed to. The first of these resolutions was, “That in accordance with what appears to be a general wish, a tablet, with a medallion of Mr. Southey, in white marble, be adopted as the monument to be erected; and that Wm. Wordsworth, Esq., poet laureate, be requested to write the inscription.”

With this request Mr. Wordsworth cheerfully complied, and having been favoured with a copy of the inscription, we lay it before our readers, for their gratification:—

“Sacred to the memory of Robert Southey, who remains perpetually revered in this neighbouring Churchyard. He was born at Bristol, October 4, 1774, and died after a residence of nearly 40 years at Greta Hall, in this parish, March 21, 1843.

“Ye torrents, foaming down the rocky steep,
Ye lakes, wherein the spirit of water sleeps,
Ye valleys and hills, whose beauty hither drew
The poet's steps, and fasted him on you
His eyes have closed; and ye, loved books, no more
Shall Southey feed upon your precious lore,
To works that ne'er shall forfeit their renown,
Adding immortal labours of his own:
While he traces historic truth and moral
Or fancy, disciplined by studious art,
Informed his pen, or wisdom of the heart,
Or judgments sanctioned in the patriot's mind
By reverence for the rights of all mankind:
Large were his aims, yet in no human breast
Could he find a focus for a holier zeal.
His joys, his griefs, have vanished like a cloud
From Shkidda's top; but he to Heaven was
Rosed
Through a long life, and calmed by Christian
Faith
In his pure soul the fear of change and death.”

OXFORD SUMMER CIRCUIT.

BY ANS. G. GABLEY, AND OTHERS.

SALOP, Aug. 10.—A surveyor of highways is not authorized to pull down fences erected within fifteen feet of the centre of the road, unless they be erected also on the highway.

It appeared from the evidence that the close in question was situate in the township of Stoney Stratton, on a road leading from Edge to Westbury. The road was a mere country lane, and cut through with grass. Parallel with, and adjoining the road, was a strip of waste ground lying three-quarters of a yard above the level of the highway, and bounded on the other side by a fence which divided the wastes from the other land belonging to the plaintiff. About eighteen years ago, this strip of waste land was made the subject of negotiation between the parish and the plaintiff, and it was actually enclosed and used as the parish pound for three years, but no conveyance was ever executed, as the money agreed upon was not paid. Subsequently, therefore, the plaintiff took possession of the land—pulled down the pound, and erected on the waste land a fence of posts and rails for the purpose of separating it from the road, having at the same time thrown down the fence which had previously divided the waste from his adjoining field. It was admitted that for sixty years back the waste was not known as a road on which people had travelled. Opposite to the place in question, the road was fourteen or fifteen feet wide, which was rather under than the average breadth of the whole road. The width of the part enclosed was seventeen feet. The defendant Oakley was surveyor of the highways, and by his direction, the other defendant, one Phillips, pulled down the fence which the plaintiff had erected on the waste.

On behalf of the plaintiff it was urged that the surveyor was only required to maintain a waste of twenty feet for the cartway when the ground between the fences including it would permit; and submitted, that as the fence pulled down by the defendants was not erected on the highway, although within ten feet of its centre, the provisions of the statute did not

apply.—*Lowe v. Kay* 4 b. & c. p. 3, was precisely in point. There the question arose upon the 64th sec. of the statute 13 Geo. 3, c. 78, the provisions of which were almost identical with the terms of the 69th section of the present Highway Act, and the Court of B. R. held that unless the fence were on the highway, the party erecting it is not guilty of any offence against the statute, nor was the surveyor authorized to remove it.

Maude, J.—I cannot distinguish this case from *Lowe v. Kay*. Two things must concur to bring a fence erected under circumstances like the present within the provisions of the statute. The fence must be within fifteen feet of the centre of the road, and it must be erected on the carriage highway.—*J. P.* p. 660.

Verdict for the plaintiff, with damages and costs against the surveyor.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

A MEETING of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels was held at their chambers in St. Martin's-place on Monday last, the Lord Bishop of London in the chair. There were also present the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, Sir R. H. Inglis, baronet, M.P.; the Rev. Dr. Spry, H. H. Norris, J. Jennings, and B. Harrison; Messrs. N. Connop, J. S. Salt, Benjamin Harrison, S. B. Brooke, Wm. Davis, E. L. Badley, &c. The reports of the sub-committee having been read, the board examined the cases referred to their consideration, and finally voted grants of money towards building additional churches or chapels at New Swindon, Wilts, the principal station of the Great Western Railway; at Norland, in the parish of Kensington, Middlesex; at West Hyde, in the parish of Rickmansworth, Herts; and at Yoxall, Somerset; also towards enlarging and rebuilding existing churches at Bevisdon, Herts, and St. Alkmund's, Derby; also towards enlarging and otherwise increasing the accommodation in the churches of Burlewcombe, Devon, and Stoke Golding, Leicestershire. The population of these parishes is 43,231 persons, and the accommodation now provided in nine churches is 7,467 seats (being for less than one-sixth of the whole number), including 1,955 free seats, or one free sitting for 22 persons. The additional church room to be obtained by the execution of the works in aid of which grants are now voted by the society is 3,916 sittings, 2,716 of which will be free. One of the parishes assisted has, at present, church accommodation for less than one-sixth of its population, which is 17,000 souls; another, 19,399 inhabitants, possesses church room for about one-twentieth of its number; and a third, with a population of 7,000 persons, can accommodate barely one-sixth. The requisite certificates of the completion of five additional churches, of the rebuilding, with enlargement, reseating, &c., of three other churches, were examined and approved, and orders were issued for the trustees to pay over to the treasurer the sum granted by the society in each case, on order that he may remit the same to the respective applicants. The population of these 13 places is 26,875 persons, and, before it was determined that the works now completed should be executed, the church accommodation provided in these parishes was 5,854 sittings, including 1,367 free seats. One of the parishes, with a population of upwards of 6,000 persons, had accommodation for about one-sixth of the number, and five others, each with a population of about 2,500 persons, possessed church room for from one-fourth to one-eighth. With the aid of the society's grants 3,015 additional seats are now provided at these places, 2,623 of which are free. Since the last meeting, the committee have received intimation that applications will be made for their assistance towards the erection of churches in six populous parishes and towards enlarging, enlarging, and otherwise increasing the accommodation in the churches of seven other places, as soon as the requisite plans, specifications, and other documents can be prepared for their inspection. In addition to which, the plans, &c., relating to six applications are now under the consideration of the sub-committee, preparatory to their being referred (if approved) to the general board.